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Message Text

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TOSEC 157

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)
SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS FULL TEXT TO LES JANKA

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT JEREMIAH O'LEARY BYLINER, WASHINGTON STAR NEWS, PAGE 8, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, HEADLINED ,HAIG SOUGHT TAPS, EX-FBI AIDE SAYS."

2. THE ORIGINAL FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL WIRETAPS ON 17 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN WAS MADE ON MAY 10, 1969, IN A PERSONAL VISIT BY ALEXANDER HAIG TO THE OFFICE OF ASST. FBI DIRECTOR WILLIAM C. SULLIVAN, THE RETIRED INVESTIGATIVE OFFICIAL TOLD THE STAR-NEWS TODAY.

3. SULLIVAN SAID HAIG NEVER MENTIONED HENRY A. KISSINGER, WHO WAS A NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER AT THE TIME, OR ANY OTHER OFFICIAL AS THE INITIATOR OF THE REQUEST FOR THE WIRETAPS AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS A WHITE HOUSE REQUEST.
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4. SULLIVAN'S RECOLLECTION THAT THE TAPS WERE INITIATED BY THE FBI ON THE BASIS OF A PERSONAL VISIT FROM HAIG SHEDS SOME LIGHT ON AN AMBIGUOUS FBI MEMORANDUM OF MAY 12, 1969, AND A 15-PAGE SUMMARY OF THE INQUIRY THAT

BECAME PUBLIC YESTERDAY. THE MEMO TO ASST. FBI DIRECTOR LEONARD M. WALTER STATES IN PART:

5. "THE ORIGINAL REQUESTS WERE FROM EITHER DR. HENRY KISSINGER OR GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG (THEN COL. HAIG) FOR WIRETAP COVERAGE ON KNOWLEDGEABLE NSC (NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL) PERSONNEL AND CERTAIN NEWSMEN WHO HAD PARTICULAR NEWS INTEREST IN THE SALT TALKS. THE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ON THIS COVERAGE WERE MADE TO EITHER FORMER DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER OR FORMER ASST. TO THE DIRECTOR WILLIAM C. SULLIVAN (AND ON ONE OCCASION BY GEN. HAIG TO SPECIAL AGENT ROBERT HAYNES, FBI, WHITE HOUSE LIAISON. WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES WAS SECURED ON EACH WIRETAP."

6. MEANWHILE, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TODAY QUOTED SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM AS SAYING THAT REPORTS ON THE WIRETAPS WENT DIRECTLY TO KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NIXON.

7. THE SOURCES SAID THAT FBI DIGESTS OF THE MATERIAL OVERHEARD ON THE TAPS WERE HAND-CARRIED TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND DELIVERED TO NIXON AND KISSINGER, ACCORDING TO THE AP.

8. ASKED IF KISSINGER HAD CALLED HOOVER, THE LATE FBI DIRECTOR, AS HAS-BEEN ALLEGED, THE DAY BEFORE THE HAIG VISIT, SULLIVAN REPLIED, "THERE WERE MANY THINGS MR. HOOVER NEVER TOLD ME AND HE NEVER TOLD ME OF ANY SUCH CALL. WHEN HAIG CAME TO SEE ME, HE DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT ANY CALL TO THE BUREAU THE PREVIOUS DAY."

9. HOWEVER, A MEMORANDUM PREPARED FOR HOOVER'S FILE AND DATED THE DAY BEFORE HAIG'S VISIT TO SULLIVAN (MAY 9) OPENS WITH A SPECIFIC MENTION OF SUCH A CALL FROM KISSINGER
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TO HOOVER, ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST.

10. "DR. HENRY KISSINGER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT, CALLED FROM KEY BISCAYNE, FLA." THE MEMO IS QUOTED AS STATING.

11. IN THE MEMO, KISSINGER, IS REPORTED TO HAVE WARNED THAT A STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT DAY "IS

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EXTRAORDINARILY DAMAGING AND CONTAINS SECRET INFORMATION."

12. THE STORY REFERRED TO, AS PREVIOUSLY DISCLOSED, WAS AN ARTICLE BY WILLIAM BEECHER THAT U.S. B52S FOR THE FIRST TIME WERE STRIKING AT NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG FORCES INSIDE CAMBODIA AND THAT CAMBODIA WAS NOT PROTESTING THE RAIDS. THE MAY 9 MEMO QUOTES HOOVER AS FOLLOWS:

13. "DR. KISSINGER SAID THEY WONDERED WHETHER I COULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHERE THAT CAME FROM. I SAID I WOULD."

14. LATER THAT DAY, ACCORDING TO THE POST, HOOVER PHONED KISSINGER AGAIN, SPECULATING THAT THE INFORMATION MAY HAVE BEEN LEAKED TO BEECHER BY MORTON HALPERIN, THEN A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF.

15. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY HAIG WENT TO SEE SULLIVAN.

16. SULLIVAN SAID HAIG TOLD HIM THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS BREACHES OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND FURNISHED SOME OF THE NAMES ON WHICH THE FBI INSTITUTED WIRETAPS.

17. THE FORMER FBI INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST SAID HE DOUBTED THAT HOOVER WOULD EVER HAVE TAKEN AN ORDER OR SUGGESTION FROM KISSINGER. "HOOVER WOULD HAVE WANTED SOMETHING FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF OR SOMETHING IN WRITING," SULLIVAN SAID.

18. KISSINGER, WHO HAS THREATENED TO RESIGN AS SECRETARY OF STATE BECAUSE OF PERSISTENT QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE WIRETAPS, HAS MAINTAINED THAT HE DID NOT DIRECTLY REQUEST THE 17 TAPS. KISSINGER ACKNOWLEDGES HE UNCLASSIFIED

WAS PRESENT AT A WHITE HOUSE MEETING IN THE SPRING OF 1969 AT WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON ORDERED THE WIRETAPS BUT HAS SAID HIS CONTRIBUTION WAS TO DESCRIBE THE LEAKS AND FURNISH THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAD ACCESS TO LEAKED INFORMATION.

19. FBI AGENTS INTERVIEWED SULLIVAN LAST SUMMER ABOUT THE INQUIRY ACCORDING TO THE FBI SUMMARY, BUT SULLIVAN AT THAT TIME WOULD NOT IDENTIFY WHO AT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD MADE THE WIRETAP REQUESTS. HATG, HIMSELF INTERVIEWED BY AGENTS IN THE INQUIRY, ALSO DECLINED TO SAY WHO HAD ORDERED THE WIRETAPS. HE DESCRIBED THE DECISION AS BEING THE RESULT OF "JOINT INPUT."

20. AT LEAST SOME OF THE 17 TAPS, IT IS REPORTED, WERE

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INITIATED WITHIN THE FBI AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THE TAPS WERE INSTALLED FOR PERIODS VARYING FROM ONE MONTH TO NEARLY TWO YEARS.

21. SULLIVAN'S RECOLLECTION DOES NOT CLEAR KISSINGER, SINCE HAIG WAS KISSINGER'S DEPUTY IN 1969 AND COULD EITHER HAVE BEEN RELAYING THE REQUEST TO THE FBI FOR KISSINGER OR DOING SO WITH KISSINGER'S KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL.

22. THE MATTER NOW APPEARS TO REQUIRE FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM HAIG ON PRECISELY WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE WHITE HOUSE THAT RESULTED IN HIS GOING TO THE FBI FOR A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH SULLIVAN. HAIG IS IN EGYPT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY.

23. MANY OF THE FBI RECORDS OF THE REQUESTS FOR WIRETAPS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FOR THEM AND SUMMARIES OF THE RESULTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND THEIR WHEREABOUTS ARE NOT PRECISELY KNOWN. SULLIVAN, IT HAS BEEN DISCLOSED, KEPT ALL THESE DOCUMENTS IN HIS OWN OFFICE RATHER THAN FBI GENERAL FILES AND, WHEN HE RETIRED FROM THE FBI, SENT THEM TO ROBERT G. MARDIAN, THEN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CHARGE OF INTERNAL SECURITY.

24. MARDIAN, IN TURN, SENT THE DOCUMENTS TO THE WHITE
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HOUSE AND THEY WERE FOUND IN THE FILES OF PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN WHEN THE FBI BEGAN ITS INQUIRY LAST SUMMER. THESE DOCUMENTS WERE RETURNED TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AT THAT TIME BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN DISCLOSED WHETHER ANY OF THEM ARE MISSING.

25. IN TURN, THE DOCUMENTS WERE FURNISHED TO SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI AND TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WATERGATE-IMPEACHMENT INVESTIGATIONS BUT WERE DENIED TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

26. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS SAID THAT IT IS WITHHOLDING THE MATERIAL BECAUSE OF A CIVIL SUIT FILED BY ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WIRETAPPED, FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF MEMBER MORTON P. HALPERIN.

27. (TWO OTHER FORMER MEMBERS OF THE NSC STAFF FILED SUIT YESTERDAY AGAINST NIXON, KISSINGER AND THE TELEPHONE COMPANY, SAYING THEIR PHONES WERE UNCONSTITUTIONALLY TAPPED.

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28. (THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT SUITS WERE FILED BY RICHARD M. MOOSE, THE COUNCIL'S STAFF SECRETARY FROM JANUARY 20 TO SEPTEMBER 20, 1969, AND WILLIAM A. K. LAKE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO KISSINGER AND A SPECIAL PROJECTS STAFF MEMBER FROM JUNE 1, 1969, TO JUNE 14, 1970.)

29. THE DOCUMENTS WERE INSPECTED LATE LAST YEAR BY SENS. JOHN SPARKMAN, D-ALA., AND CLIFFORD CASE, R-N.J., WITH KISSINGER IN THE PRESENCE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLIOT RICHARDSON AND THEN DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM RUCKELSHAUS. THE COMMITTEE NOW APPEARS TO FEEL THAT THE CLEARANCE FROM INNUENDO AND ALLEGATION SOUGHT BY KISSINGER WILL REST ON THE CONTENTS OF THOSE FBI DOCUMENTS.

30. ASSUMING THAT JUSTICE WILL SEND THE DOCUMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD AT LEAST ONE EXECUTIVE SESSION TO EXAMINE THE RELEVANT FBI FILES AND PROBABLY CALL KISSINGER AGAIN AS A WITNESS WHEN HE RETURNS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND CANADA
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SOME TIME AFTER JUNE 20. (END TEXT.) SISCO

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